



The Nutshell
BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
1401 NW PARK ROAD - BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015

BURR OAK WOODS
CONSERVATION NATURE
CENTER is located one
mile north of I-70 on
Hwy 7, one mile west
on Park Road. The
Nature Center is open
Monday through
Saturday 8 a.m. to 5
p.m. and NOON to 5
p.m. on Sundays. AREA
HOURS: The area and
trails are open 8 a.m.
to 8 p.m. for Daylight
Savings Time. No
pets allowed. No
Admission charged.
Gift Shop closes at
4:30 p.m.



**Don't Miss the
Lewis & Clark 2002 Expedition!**



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THE INCREDIBLE MISSOURI RIVER

You are standing on the deck of a large wooden boat, squinting into the fading hues of an orange and red sun as it sets on the incredible Missouri River. There can be no place like this on earth. You sigh deeply and close your eyes, letting your mind drift away with the meandering current. You cannot shake the overwhelming sensation that you have stepped back in time. You half expect to open your eyes and find Lewis and Clark as captains of this boat.

The Missouri River is our state's most incredible geological feature. It formed during the Ice Ages as a meltwater outlet for the retreating glaciers. The headwaters originate as a clear, rushing mountain stream high within the mountains of Montana. As it reaches the plains of the Dakotas, it slows considerably. Here, it begins to carry its heavy load of sediments giving characteristic muddy its reputation. Its unpredictable, fluctuating current continuously alters its course as it meanders without hurry across the mid-west. Throughout history, its flow has been known to cave in banks, completely changing the face of its shorelines, washing away farmland, and occasionally, entire towns. It became the challenge of the time to harness this wild river for the benefit of people.

In 1944, Congress gave authorization to the Missouri River Basin Project for the purpose of "taming" the river. Well, we have nearly forced it to its knees. We

have polluted it, dammed it, straightened it, built levees, revetments, and dikes. We have scoured the bottom until it is just deep enough to suit our purposes. All of this in the name of flood control, navigation, commerce, and hydroelectric power generation. Our Missouri River is now listed as one of the ten most endangered rivers in The United States. Most of us who live in the Kansas City region, think of this river as nothing but a channelized ditch, if we choose to think of it at all.

If you take the time to get away from the metropolitan area, the Missouri river assumes an entirely different personality.

No, it will never again look like the river that Lewis and Clark described in their journals, but mature bottomland forests still grace its ancient banks. There are still uninhabited islands to explore, and as you float beneath the shadows of the towering limestone bluffs, you have a wonderful opportunity to ponder our human inheritance as well as geological history along the great Missouri River. If you close your eyes again for just one moment and listen carefully, you can still hear the voices of our ancestors meandering with the current.

Do not miss the chance this month to join in on the adventures of Lewis and Clark, as we take a special field trip to explore this incredible river and attempt to discover some of its delightful secrets once again.

- Lisa LaCombe

Kid's Discovery Page

- 1. Compare the two pictures and find how they are different.*
- 2. Check the internet and discover what animals live in or near streams.*
- 3. Discuss with your family how and why streams are important.*
- 4. Participate in a stream related activity this month, show your support in preserving Missouri Streams!*



August Events

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A AUGUST PROGRAM: CALL BURR OAK WOODS NATURE CENTER ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1 TO REGISTER. (PHONE 228-3766 V/TDD). THE PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE. IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL, PLEASE CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO SOMEONE ON THE WAITING LIST CAN ATTEND.

Grandma's Story Hour

SATURDAYS, AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, AT 1:30 P.M. (ALL AGES)

Grandma has some new and exciting nature stories to share with the young and old alike. Join us as she spins a tale or two. No Registration required.

Families: Family Fishing

SATURDAYS, AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 31, AT 9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. (ALL AGES)

It's that time of year again! Time to get out and enjoy a beautiful morning by the pond. Join us at the Burr Oak Woods pond to learn about the fish of Missouri and to try your hand at fishing. See if you go home with a story of 'the whopper' or 'the one that got away' to share with your friends! No experience necessary, all equipment and bait provided. Participants 16-65 years of age must have a valid Missouri fishing license which can be purchased at the Nature Center. Registration required.

Stream Families: What Lives in the Water?

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, AT 10:00 A.M. (AGES 7 AND UP)

It's hot outside. There's nothin' to do. Ahhh...the dog days of summer. What a better way to liven up this season than to explore the hidden wonders of Burr Oak Creek! Join the team as we study the aquatic organisms that live just under the surface. These critters tell a story about the health of this little stream. You and your family can make a difference. Be prepared to get muddy and wet! Registration required.

Little Acorns: Fishin' Time

TUESDAY, THURSDAY OR SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 22, & 24

AT 10:00 A.M. OR 1:00 P.M. (AGES 3-6)

This month, it's time to go fishing! Join us at our fishing pond where we will teach you how to cast, bait, and catch that perfect fish! Afterwards, we'll make a fish print t-shirt for you to take home to remember your perfect catch! Please bring a white t-shirt, sunscreen, and a water bottle. This program will be approximately 1 hour! Registration required.

Adult's Only Hiking Club: Discover Burr Oak Woods

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, AT 1:00 P.M. (AGES 20 AND UP)

How did Lewis and Clark record history? Come journal and sketch your way along a trail at Burr Oak Woods just like they might have. We will be meeting at the Nature Center to design and make our very own nature journals. Then we will hit the trail to discover nature in a new and exciting way. Bring your imagination and a friend, this is an experience you won't want to miss. Registration required.

Dr. Nutcase's Experiment Hour:

What's Happening to Missouri Streams?

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, AT 2:00 P.M. (AGES 7 AND UP)

Have you ever wondered why water flows in one direction? What happens if you take a tree out of the riparian corridor? What happens if you build a house on the floodplain? Join us as we do exciting experiments on the stream table and answer these "What if" questions! Registration required.

Adults Only: Making Wild Berry Jams and Jellies

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, AT 10:00 A.M. OR 1:00 P.M. (AGES 20 AND UP)

Have you always wanted to learn how to make jam? Ever wonder where to find wild berries. Then this class is for you! Join us for this hands-on introductory class as we give you the ins and outs of where to find such fruits as elderberries, gooseberries, and blackberries, and how to make them into the perfect jam! There will be samples for all to enjoy! This class will take approximately 2 hours. Registration required.

Families with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fishing and Cooking

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, AT 9 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

What better way to end the summer than going fishing and eating fish? The kids will go fishing on their own, with assistance of volunteers, while the adults learn how to fillet a fish and cook them on the grill. We will also learn different methods of filleting a fish and cooking. Afterward we will enjoy eating the fish we cooked! No experience necessary, all equipment and bait provided. Participants 16 - 65 years of age, must have a valid Missouri fishing license which can be purchased at the Nature Center. Registration required.

Spotlight of the Month

LEWIS AND CLARK MISSOURI RIVER EXPEDITION 2002



Conservation Kid's Club Outdoor Adventurers Families

Wednesday, August 14, at 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (Ages 7 and up)
Here is your chance to enlist in the Lewis and Clark Discovery Corp! Join us on this very special field trip, as the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Biologists and Conservation Agents take us out in john boats to explore the big, wide Missouri River. We will meet at La Benite Park in Sugar Creek at 8:30 A.M. Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Bring a sack lunch, plenty of water, and a blanket. Do not miss this fantastic day of activities, games, exploration, and all around family fun!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SPACE IS LIMITED!



Burr Oak Woods Anniversary Photography Competition

You are invited to participate in a photography competition in commemoration of Burr Oak Woods 20th Anniversary! Photographs must be taken at Burr Oak Woods. Subject matter may depict nature, visitors, programs, or history. Contest rules and entry forms will be available beginning September 1st. Entry deadline is October 1st. Winners will be announced and all entries will be displayed in the nature center during the Burr Oak Woods Blowout Anniversary Celebration in October. Call Lisa (816)228-3766 ext. 232 for more information. The selected photography works will be published in the November edition of The Nutshell!

GIFT SHOP NEWS!

Sizzling Summer Specials!

Take care of hot dry summer skin with our line of natural Burt's Bees products!



The fun continues, get your Passport stamped at all 15 ISC sites. Be sure to turn in your completed passport to the last site visited by September 21st.

Fish, Film, and Feedings

Join us for free nature films and wildlife feedings. Films are shown Wednesday and Sundays at 3:30 P.M. The fish, turtles, and amphibians are fed Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at 3 P.M. The snakes are fed every Friday at 3:30 P.M.



LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US